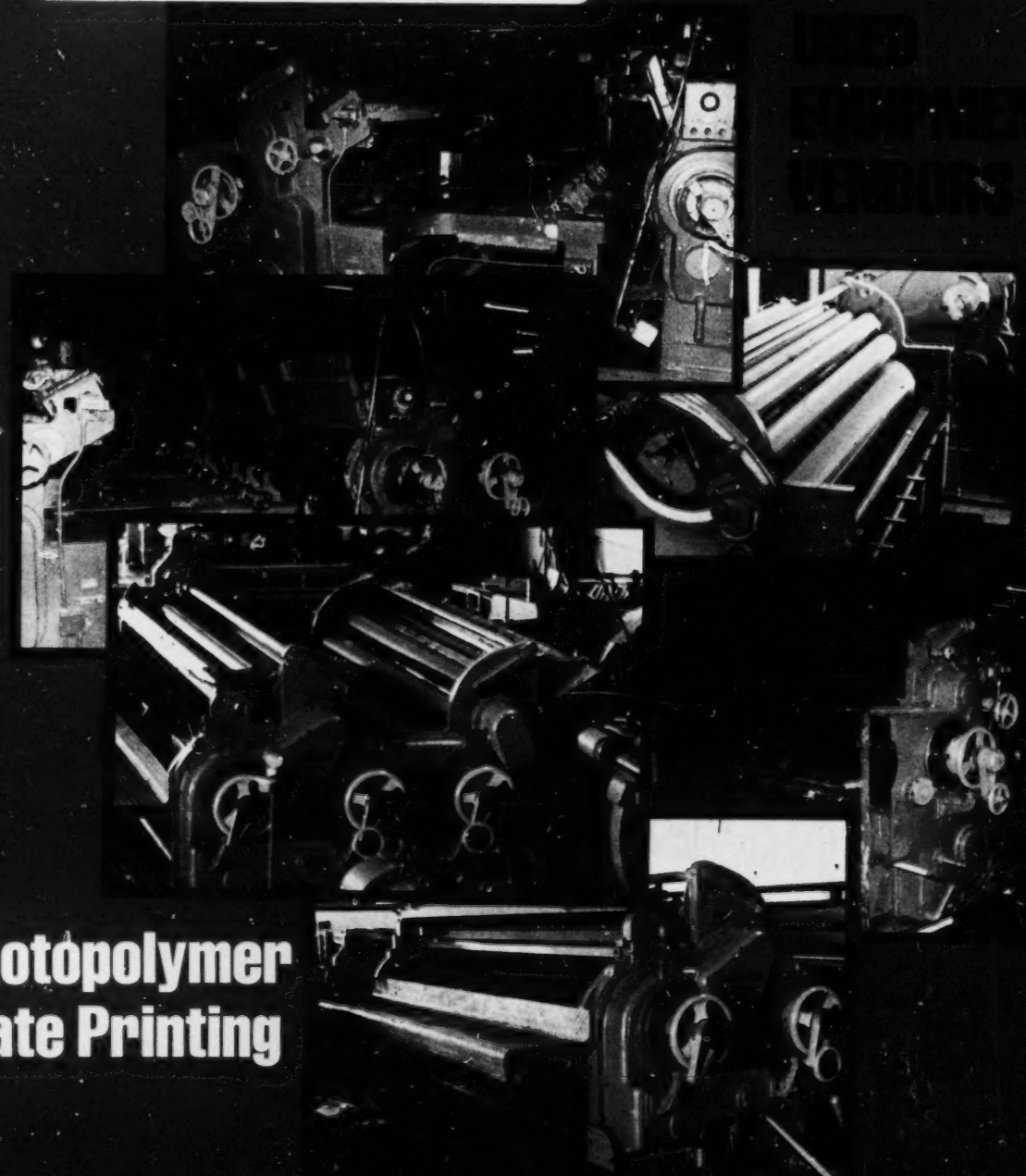
paper board packaging

C5250-3

Hall of Famers



Photopolymer Plate Printing

vol 67 no. 2
February 1982

on the cover

Various stages of equipment reconditioning are shown on this month's cover with pictures courtesy of the Tom Haire Organization. Cover photography by Chuck Fishbein. Cover design by Orrin Mitch.

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According to reports, sales of used converting machinery have increased as inflation continues through deepening recession.
by Jim Young, Editor

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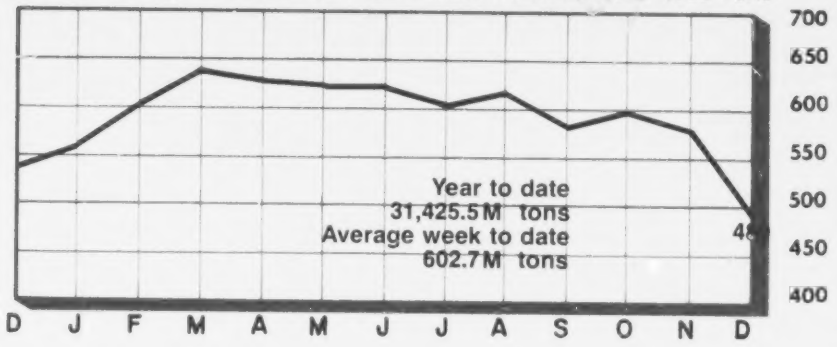
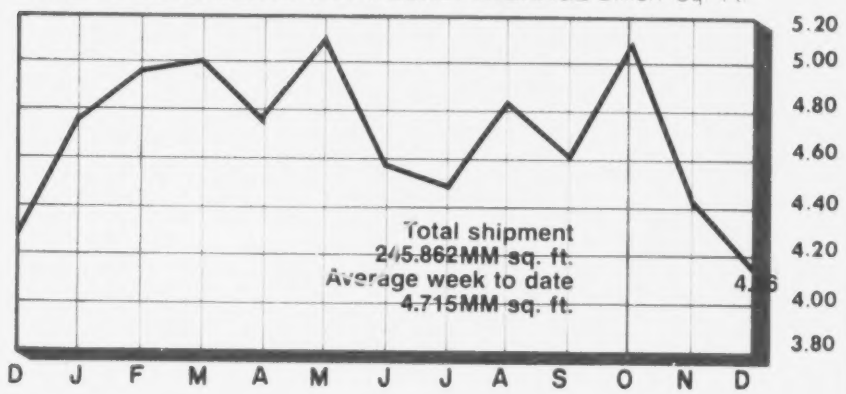
INDUSTRY STATISTICS

PAPERBOARD PRODUCTION 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE 1,000 Tons



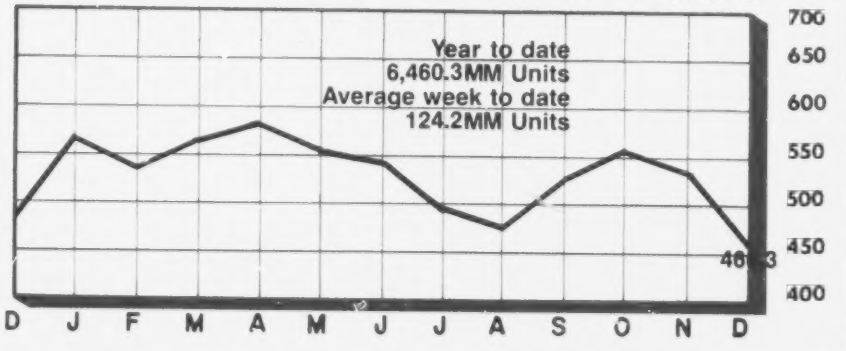
PAPERBOARD MILL OPERATIONS: Initial data for 1981—subject to minor refinements—indicate an approximate tie with 1979 for history's highest total tonnage, and a rise of some 1.5% from '80. However, this annual record does not reflect the stunning downturn—perhaps another historic high of its kind—that struck in the fourth quarter. During that closing period, total board output was down 6.6% from 1980 levels, with a drop of 5% in unbleached kraft furnishes, of 9% in semichemical, of 13% in bleached kraft, and of 5% in recycled. This reversal has continued and accelerated, in the early weeks of depressed 1982.

FIBRE BOX SHIPMENTS 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE Billion Sq. Ft.



PAPERBOARD-TYPE PRODUCTION: U.S. output in 1981 included 74% of containerboards, about six percentage points over traditional average, despite an "even" year for semichemical mediums. The disparity is due to some, though faded, export demand plus the slow decline of boxboard packagings under invasion from alternate materials, plus economic recession. It is to be seen that boxboard gains during cyclic business upturns no longer recover the losses during recession. One victim of this evolution must be the area of fiber reclamation for recycling, in spite of all campaigns and efforts.

COMPOSITE CAN OUTPUT 1981-WEEKLY AVERAGE Million Units



RIGID PAPER BOXES: Set-up box billings ended 1981 at the lowest annual margin of improvement since the 10% drop in depressed 1975 from '74—and comparing with an 8.5% average advance in the years since. Further, billings in the fourth quarter fell off at about the same grim rate as did other solid-board packagings. This is sadly reflected in the period's combined output reduction of 8% for solid bleached and recycled furnishes from the 1980 quarter, which in turn had been 7.8% down from 1979. And here, again, the slump continues and deepens in early months of 1982.

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